2021 WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR THE CLEAR SPRING WATER SYSTEM PWSID # 0210005

Is my water safe?

Last year, the Clear Spring Water System was evaluated for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. Results of this testing met the levels allowed by EPA. The Town of Clear Spring and the Washington County Department of Water Quality are committed to providing you with information on your water supply and taking the necessary actions to supply water in compliance with all drinking water health standards.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

The Clear Spring Water system uses three wells as its water source. The water is chlorinated for disinfection purposes and receives filtration prior to entering the distribution system.

Source water assessment and its availability

The Maryland Department of the Environment's Water Supply Program (WSP) conducted a Source Water Assessment for the Town of Clear Spring water system in 2005. The required components of this report as described in Maryland's Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) are 1) delineation of an area that contributes water to the source, 2) identification of potential sources of contamination, and 3) determination of susceptibility of the water supply to contamination. Recommendations for protecting the drinking water supply are included in this report.

Clear Spring currently uses three wells (A, B and C). A fourth well (D) and two springs are not in use. The Source Water Assessment area was delineated by the SWAP using EPA approved methods specifically designed for each source. Potential point sources of contamination within the assessment area were found from MDE contaminant inventory databases. The Maryland Department of Planning's 2002 land use map for Washington County was used to find non-point sources of contamination. Well information and water quality data were also reviewed.

The susceptibility analysis is based on review of the existing water quality data for the Clear Spring Water System, the presence of potential sources of contamination in the source water assessment area, well integrity, and the inherent vulnerability of the aquifer. The Clear Spring Water System may be susceptible to contamination by microbiological contaminants. A filtration plant has been installed to treat for the

microbiological contamination. It was determined that Radon-222, a naturally occurring contaminant, may pose a risk to the Clear Spring Water System. This water supply is not susceptible to contamination by inorganic compounds or synthetic organic compounds.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it can dissolve naturally occurring minerals and radioactive materials, and pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

Possible contaminants consist of:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which may be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems

Radioactive contaminants, which may be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA prescribes regulations that limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved?

For more information on getting involved, please contact the Town of Clear Spring at (301) 842-2252.

Water Quality Data Table

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the number of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report.

Although many more contaminants were evaluated, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water have some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not supply increased protection of public health.

A few naturally occurring minerals may improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have supplied the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low	Range High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants) Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.								
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	No goal for the total	80	19	19.3	19.3	2021	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	No goal for the total	60	7	7.4	7.4	2021	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	1.6	1.2	1.6	2021	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Inorganic Contaminants								
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	1	0.6	0.6	2021	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Turbidity					
	Limit (Treatment Technique)	**Level Detected**	**Sample Date**	**Violation**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Highest Single Measurement	1 NTU	0.32 NTU	2021	No	Soil runoff
Lowest Monthly % Meeting Limit	0.3 NTU	100%	2021	No	Soil runoff

Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Inorganic Contaminants							
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	1.3	2019	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Copper – action level at consumers tap (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.0395	2019	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosions of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservative

Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future

Important Terms

Unit / Term Descriptions	
Unit / Term	**Definition**
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L) or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L) or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NA	NA: Not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required but recommended
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology
AVG	Regulatory compliance with some MCL's is based on running average of monthly samples
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminant.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

Additional Information for Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Clear Spring is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested.

Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Results of voluntary monitoring

The Town of Clear Spring participated in sampling for PFAs in 2021. PFAs – per and polyfluoroalkyl substances – refers to a large group of more than 4,000 human-made chemicals that have been used since the 1940's in a range of products, including stain- and water-resistant fabrics and carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging and fire-fighting foams. These uses of PFAs have led to PFAs entering our environment, where they have been measured by several states in soil, surface water, groundwater, and seafood. Some PFAs can last a long time in the environment and in the human body and can accumulate in the food chain. Currently, there are no federal regulations (i.e., Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)) for PFAs in drinking water. However, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a Health Advisory Level (HAL) of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for the sum of PFOA and PFOS concentrations in drinking water. While not enforceable, the limit allows drinking water customers, even the most sensitive populations, with a margin of protection from lifetime exposure. Beginning in 2020, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) initiated a PFAs monitoring program. The combined PFOA and PFOS concentration from samples taken from our water system was Not Detected (ND), or well below the HAL. The MDE anticipates the EPA will set MCLs in the near future.

The Town of Clear Spring conducts routine testing of your water system that is not included in the Water Quality Data Table. MDE has also completed testing that is not included in the Water Quality Data Table. A list of these parameters and their results are in the Table of Results of Customer Interest below.

Voluntary Monitoring

PARAMETER	LEVEL/RANGE DETECTED	UNIT OF MEASUREMENT
pH	7.6 – 8.3	Standard Unit

For more information about the Town of Clear Spring Water System Contact Clear Spring Town Hall at (301) 842-2252